In the present employment and unemployment scenario the activities being performed by the employment exchanges are of great importance.

Amendments in Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986

†3272. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of the number of efforts of Government, the number of child labourer in the country is increasing;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider bringing some effective amendment in the existing Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) As per Census 2001 figures, the number of working children in the country has registered a slight increase over that of 1991 in absolute terms. However, the percentage of working children to that of the total child population has come down.

(b) Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, there are sufficient legal provisions available prohibiting employment of children in hazardous occupations and processses. Adequate quantum of punishment in terms of fine and imprisonment to the offending employers already exists under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act. Effective implementation of the existing law with simultaneous rehabilitative measures alongwith the convergence with the other developmental programmes is the corner stone of the strategy of the Government in the elimination of child labour.

(c) Does not arise.

Safety at work place

3273. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of fatal accidents due to poor safety and health facilities at work place in India according to the latest report of International Labour Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the number of fatal accidents at work place in India;

(d) whether any new mechanism is proposed to introduce to ensure safety at work place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Report titled "Introductory Report: Decent Work-Safe Work" presented in the XVIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work held at Orlando, USA *inter alia* mentions that reported accident and diseases statistics provides perhanps the most direct indicator, but such data relating to Occupational Accidents and Diseases from member countries are often very incomplete since underreporting is common and official reporting requirements frequently do not cover all categories of workers, like those in the informal sector.

(c) The analysis of the causes of accidents on the basis of information collected for the mining sectors by Directorate General of Mines Safety indicates that major causes of fatal accidents are due to fall of roof in coal mines and through the involvment of dumpers, tucks, etc. in non-coal mines. The fall of persons and fall of objects are also responsible for a number of serious accidents in coal and on-coal mines respectively.

Similarly, in the manufacturing sector, the major reasons for the workers' death and serious injuries include fall from height (non-use of safety harness), run over by transport equipment, exposure to toxic chemicals, burn injury due to fire, explosion, working in confined space having oxygen deficiency, due to the presence of other obnoxious gases, limbs getting between moving parts on unguarded machines, struck by and striking against objects (fall of objects also are causes of accidents), improper maintenance of plant and machinery, accidents caused due to fall on slippery surfaces etc. as analyzed by the Directorate General of Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes on the basis of reports received from the Chief Inspectors of Factories of the respective States/Union Territories.

(d) and (e) The safety at work place in the mining sectors is monitored by the Directorate General of Mines Safety. The Inspecting Officers oversee the compliance of the safety provisions by the mine owners. In respect of the manufacturing sector covered under the Factories Act, 1948, the State Governments are the enforcing agencies and are responsible to collect

the details of fatal accidents. Any reporting of statistics in this regard is, therefore, based on the inputs from the State Governments.

Pension to retired employees of Labour Commissioner's Office, Indore

†3274. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retired employees from out of those employees that were given compulsory retirement on attaining the age of 50 or completing 20 years service and reinstated in July, 2004 in the office of the Labour Commissioner, Indore are getting the pension and other benefits;

(b) if not, the reasons for the said delay; and

(c) by when the payment would be made to them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Verification of Employees' Unions/Federations

3275. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees Provident Fund Organization is an Industry;

(b) if so, whether CCS (RSA) Rules are applicable to EPFO;

(c) whether CBT authorized Central P.F. Commissioner to conduct membership verification of Employees, Unions/Federations;

(d) if not, how verification was conducted by check-off system;

(e) the details of verified membership of Unions/Federations; and

(f) if the conducted verification is wrong, whether the Minister considers to rescind it and order for fresh verification by secret ballot through CLC(C) machinery?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO). (a) to (f) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.